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MEMORANDUM FOR: [   ] 2F24

FROM: STAP Secretariat

SUBJECT: Annual Update

1. I have attached an overview of STAP activities over the past year.

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Lieutenant Commander U.S. Navy

Attachment

Date   9 NOV 1981

FORM 101 USE PREVIOUS
5-75   EDITIONS

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Science and Technology Advisory Panel

9 NOV 1981

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY PANEL

OVERVIEW

The DCI Science and Technology Advisory Panel (STAP) was formed in January 1976 by then Director William E. Colby, who saw a need for independent advice in the science, technology, and systems areas from a group of highly qualified experts outside the Intelligence Community. Originally designed to have ten members, the current membership includes nine experts from academe, industry, and government. Their expertise covers a wide range of disciplines. They include, among others, a major corporation president, an economist who was the Deputy Director of the National Security Council, and a Nobel laureate. A list of current and past members is attached. STAP was established to provide the DCI both independent advice and long range perspective on problems of S&T likely to face the Intelligence Community in the future. As former DCI George Bush succinctly put it, "Tell me what I should be doing that I am not."

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MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ENDEAVORS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STAP is involved in a wide variety of S&T issues such as:

+ The CIA's Civil Technology Assessment Program and its effectiveness.

+ Directed Energy technology and its implications for weapons systems.

+ Inadvertent war and Soviet decisionmaking under crisis conditions.

+ East-West Technology Transfer and the increasing importance of economic factors in national security.

+ The Science and Technology Cycle.

+ Agency R&D planning under budget stringency.

Currently, the Panel is considering issues such as:

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+ The future of secure communications with increasing commercial use of encryption systems.

+ The implications of biological and chemical warfare.

+ Computer support for intelligence analysts at CIA.

+ Technological surprise and the impact of emerging technologies.

+ The use of millimeter wave technology in Soviet radars.

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MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The STAP meets quarterly in plenary session. Small working groups, made of STAP members plus selected individuals from throughout the Intelligence Community meet between the regularly scheduled sessions to work on individual projects. The output of the working groups, whether a study, a memorandum or a verbal report, varies depending on the topic and the amoung of time required. Generally a written response is sent to the requestor, usually the DCI.

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The functions assigned to STAP are appropriate to the senior S&T advisory panel in the Intelligence Community: to recommend new S&T initiatives, directions, and emphases; to review ongoing work; to provide a link between the Intelligence Community, industry and academia; and to participate in special studies at the request of the DCI.

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The STAP considers intelligence assessment and collection issues as well as management problems such as SAFE (Secure Analyst File Environment) and R&D planning. These issues arise in two ways: they are requested by the DCI or other IC managers, or they are anticipatory issues identified by STAP during the course of its work. The latter issues are generally examined in a preliminary manner and an initial report is provided to the DCI before a more detailed examination is undertaken.

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FUTURE DIRECTION AND PLANS

Effective in early 1982, administrative support for the DCI's S&T Advisory Panel will be transferred to the Intelligence Community Staff, Community Headquarters Building. The Panel will continue to address the same types of S&T questions and, with the IR&D Council, continue to provide the DCI with S&T guidance on Community issues.

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